

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of August 16, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1 and 23-41 were previously pending in this application and claims 1, 32, and 36 are amended herein. The application as presented is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Zimmerman for granting and conducting a telephone interview on November 12, 2004, the substance of which is summarized herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 23-25, 28, 32, 33, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as purportedly being unpatentable over Goldstein (5,410,326). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1

During the telephone interview of November 12, 2004, Applicant explained that Goldstein discloses receiving, at a cable converter, infrared codes for wirelessly operating other devices (e.g., television, stereo, VCR, etc.). These infrared codes may be transmitted from the cable converter to a remote control, which may store the infrared codes. These infrared codes may then be transmitted from the remote control directly to the other devices to wireless operate the other devices.

Applicant pointed out to the Examiner that the limitation of claim 1 that, prior to the amendment made herein, read, "wirelessly transmitting said accessed second control signals from said first apparatus to said second apparatus to remotely control said second apparatus responsive to selected ones of said first control signals received from said first remote control device," was not disclosed by Goldstein because Goldstein does not disclose or suggest transmitting the infrared codes from the cable converter to the other devices (e.g., television, VCR, stereo). Rather, Goldstein discloses that the infrared codes are transmitted from the cable converter to the remote control and, after being received and stored by the remote control, are transmitted by the remote control to the other devices.

The Examiner asserted that Goldstein does disclose, “wirelessly transmitting said accessed control signals from said first apparatus to said second apparatus,” because, in Goldstein, the infrared codes are indirectly transmitted from the cable converter to the other devices through the remote control. While Applicant disagrees with this interpretation of the claim, Applicant proposed to the Examiner an amendment to claim 1, clarifying that the accessed second control signals are transmitted from said first apparatus to said second apparatus without transmission of these control signals to the remote control device. The Examiner agreed that if such an amendment were made to claim 1, claim 1 would patentably distinguish over Goldstein. The Examiner further indicated that he would contact Applicant, prior to the next action, if he learned of any new prior art believed to be relevant to Applicant’s claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, “wirelessly transmitting said accessed second control signals from said first apparatus to said second apparatus to remotely control said second apparatus responsive to selected ones of said first control signals received from said first remote control device, **without first transmitting said accessed second control signals to said first remote control device.**”

As should be clear from the discussion above, Goldstein does not disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 1, as Goldstein teaches transmitting infrared codes from the cable converter to the remote control before those infrared codes are transmitted by the remote control to the other devices.

Thus, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Goldstein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 23-31 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 23-31 be withdrawn.

Claim 32

Claim 32 is directed to a remotely controlled apparatus, comprising: first receiving means for receiving first control signals from a first remote control device; second receiving means for receiving signals from a broadcast medium that provides at least one of audio and video signals from a media content provider, said signals from the broadcast medium including second control signals that are associated with a second remotely controlled apparatus that is operatively responsive to said second control signals from a second remote control device that is physically

distinct from the first remote control device; storage means for storing said second control signals; control means for accessing said stored second control signals responsive to selected ones of said first control signals thus obtaining accessed second control signals; and transmitting means for wirelessly transmitting said accessed second control signals to said second remotely controlled apparatus to remotely control said second remotely controlled apparatus; wherein the transmitting means is further operative to wirelessly transmit said accessed second control signals received by said second receiving means from the broadcast medium to said second remotely controlled apparatus as said second control signals, to remotely control the second remotely controlled apparatus, without first transmitting said accessed second control signals to said first remote control device.

As should be clear from the discussion above, Goldstein does not disclose or suggest, “transmitting means for wirelessly transmitting said accessed second control signals to said second remotely controlled apparatus to remotely control said second remotely controlled apparatus; wherein the transmitting means is further operative to wirelessly transmit said accessed second control signals received by said second receiving means from the broadcast medium to said second remotely controlled apparatus as said second control signals, to remotely control the second remotely controlled apparatus, without first transmitting said accessed second control signals to said first remote control device.”

Thus, claim 32 patentably distinguishes over Goldstein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 33-35 depend from claim 32 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 33-35 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Goldstein in view of Miyagawa (4,989,081) and claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Goldstein in view of Mills (6,088,355). The Office Action further rejected claims 34-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Goldstein in view of Geiger (5,081,534). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Claim 36

Claim 36 is directed to a remote control system comprising: a first remotely controlled apparatus operationally responsive to first control signals associated with a first remote control device and to signals received from a broadcast medium that provides at least one of audio and video signals from a media content provider; and a second remotely controlled apparatus operatively responsive to second control signals associated with a second remote control device that is physically distinct from the first remote control device; wherein said first remotely controlled apparatus wirelessly transmits said second control signals to said second remotely controlled apparatus based upon said signals received from the broadcast medium to remotely control said second remotely controlled apparatus responsive to selected ones of said first control signals, without first transmitting said second control signals to said first remote control device.

As should be clear from the discussion above, Goldstein does not disclose or suggest the limitation of claim 36 that recites, “wherein said first remotely controlled apparatus wirelessly transmits said second control signals to said second remotely controlled apparatus based upon said signals received from the broadcast medium to remotely control said second remotely controlled apparatus responsive to selected ones of said first control signals, without first transmitting said second control signals to said first remote control device.”

Geiger does not cure this infirmity of Goldstein, as Geiger teaches that control signals of a second remotely controlled apparatus are learned from a second remote control device and are not received over a broadcast medium. Thus, Geiger does not disclose or suggest that, “said first remotely controlled apparatus wirelessly transmits said second control signals to said second remotely controlled apparatus based upon said signals received from the broadcast medium...” as recited in claim 36.

In view of the foregoing, claim 36 patentably distinguishes over Goldstein and Geiger, whether taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 37-41 depend from claim 36 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 37-41 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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